

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MR. CHRISTEPHER ROMERO, A
PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMU-
NITY AWARD WINNER

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Arizona student from my district who has achieved national recognition for outstanding volunteer service in his community. Mr. Christopher Romero of Phoenix has just been named one of my state's top honorees in the 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Christopher, a junior at Sunnysdale High School in Phoenix is being recognized for having developed a program to help keep at-risk teens in an inner-city neighborhood away from crime and drugs. Being raised by a mother who struggled with a drug and alcohol addiction, he was recruited by a neighborhood gang. He was later adopted and given the opportunity to turn his life around. As a way to honor his adoptive parents for helping him become a better person he decided to put together a program that would help at-risk teens. He approached a police officer working at his former school, and became a volunteer mentor. Christopher soon began to put together activities such as swimming and soccer, CPR and nutrition classes, and organizing neighborhood clean-ups. He also has encouraged kids to get involved in fundraising activities to help pay for annual theme park trips.

Christopher should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud him for his initiative in seeking to make a positive impact on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on rollcall votes 146, 147, and 148. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 146, 147, and 148.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF BROCHURES ENTITLED "HOW OUR LAWS ARE MADE" AND "OUR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT," THE PUBLICATION ENTITLED "OUR FLAG," THE DOCUMENT-SIZED ANNOTATED VERSION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND THE POCKET VERSION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Chairman NEY and Rep. LARSON for their appreciation of need to help Americans understand their most basic rights under this government.

One of the most popular House publications among my constituents is the pocket-size Constitution of the United States. Nothing is more important to this nation than the fundamental ideas set forth in this grand document that lays out our government, our rights and our responsibilities. Yet, time and time again, it appears that the citizens of this great nation are fundamentally unaware of those rights and responsibilities as established in the Constitution.

For instance, in May 2002, a Columbia Law School nationwide survey found that a shocking number of voting age Americans have serious misconceptions about the Constitution. The survey included a question revealing that two-thirds of Americans did not know that Karl Marx' foundation of Communism ("From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.") was NOT included in the United States Constitution.

This government has gone some distance in trying to teach young people the importance of education and civics as they relate to our history and our Constitution. Last year, President Bush launched "We the People," an initiative to encourage the education of United States history. Last fall, the House of Representatives passed a resolution recognizing the importance of history and civics in a child's curriculum.

So far, however, the best instrument I have seen to teach children about the Constitution is a book called Constitution Translated for Kids. For those who want their children to understand our birthright as Americans—as laid out in the Constitution—this book is an excellent resource to see precisely what the Constitution says, at a fifth-grade level.

Constitution Translated for Kids features the actual 1787 text of the United States Constitution on the left-hand side of the page and the translation appears on the right side in the first ever side-by-side, simple translation of the short, yet most supreme, legal and political document of the United States. The book also offers historical context and student exercises

that approximate the decisions made in the name of democracy.

Democracy demands that citizens be informed. Understanding our history will make tomorrow's citizens more aware of their government and their rights. I thank the House Administration Committee today for bringing this resolution to the floor; and I urge my colleagues to continue our outreach to young people in order to make them aware of what the Constitution says and what that means in our daily lives.

KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, today, when our country faces unprecedented challenges, it is crucial that we have strong allies in the world. One such ally is Kazakhstan, a country that throughout its short history of independence has demonstrated a true commitment to our principles and ideals of building a safe and prosperous world.

Against the backdrop of modern threats of catastrophic terrorism with the use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), Kazakhstan has voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal it inherited from the former Soviet Union, has shut down the world's largest nuclear test site and has been actively working with the United States in the fight against international terrorism.

Kazakhstan's example can be used as a response to aspirations by rogue states to develop WMD to impose their interests in the world. This is why I believe we need to actively spread the story of Kazakhstan's responsible international conduct and its strong cooperation with the United States that is of exceptional significance to settle today's most critical international problems.

As a key state for our interests in the center of Eurasia, Kazakhstan was one of the first to support us in the tragic days after September 11 and is providing concrete assistance in the Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan, sharing our interest in securing stability in Iraq and its surroundings after Operation Iraqi Freedom, is also sending its military medical personnel to join the International Coalition Stabilizing Force.

Now is the time, I believe, for us to develop multifaceted cooperation with Kazakhstan, a strategic partner of the United States in the fight against terrorism and proliferation of WMD. Now is the time to support this young and perspective country of pro-Western orientation in its serious efforts to build a developed and prosperous society. Such a course will undoubtedly meet the interests of our two nations.

On May 5, 2003, the Honorable Kanat Saudabayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, published an article in the Washington Times

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

entitled "Kazakhstan's contribution" in which he addressed these issues in a most persuasive manner. I call upon my colleagues to read this article and request your permission to include it in the U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

KAZAKHSTAN'S CONTRIBUTION

U.S. SHOULD STRENGTHEN COOPERATION EFFORTS

(By Kanat Saudabayev)

Although the recent PBS screening of "Avoiding Armageddon" did mention Kazakhstan as a country that chose to rid itself of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), it was disappointing that Americans were not fully informed of what was behind that choice and what it means for global security.

Kazakhstan's "notable example" of disarmament, as the White House recently described it, could be used as a counterweight to aspirations of some countries to develop WMD as means to assert their interests in the world. I strongly believe that Kazakhstan's story of responsible international behavior and strong cooperation with the U.S. is of paramount importance, as it might lead to solutions to today's most acute international problems.

In 1991, having suffered through almost 500 Soviet nuclear tests that destroyed the lives of 1.5 million people, Kazakhstan voluntarily renounced what would have been the world's 4th nuclear arsenal and shut down the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk. Together with the United States, we have since destroyed the remaining infrastructure of the loathsome legacy of the Cold War. Amongst the most graphic examples of our cooperation under the Nunn-Lugar program have been Project Sapphire, which shipped more than 1,300 pounds of weapons-grade uranium from Kazakhstan to the U.S., and the destruction of the world's largest anthrax production and weaponization facility at Stepnogorsk.

The path of history could have been different, however, had President Nursultan Nazarbayev chosen to go with the significant portion of Kazakhstan's elite that was in favor of keeping the nuclear weapons as means to ostensibly gain international respect.

To the contrary, it was Mr. Nazarbayev's unwavering commitment to disarmament during all these years that led Kazakhstan to renounce the nuclear weapons, becoming a strong disarmament advocate, and ultimately, gaining the recognition as a peace-loving nation.

Indeed, it is our policies that enabled Kazakhstan to launch a new security organization for Asia with the participation of the leaders of 16 nations. At its inaugural meeting in Almaty in June 2002, we hosted the presidents of China, Russia, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the prime minister of India and others. At the height of a crisis between New Delhi and Islamabad, their leaders sat at one table and were able to directly listen to each other. This event became Kazakhstan's important contribution to the reduction of tensions between the two nuclear powers of the subcontinent.

"Countries like Kazakhstan that have renounced nuclear weapons for all time provide an example and can provide valuable leadership on these issues," former Sen. Sam Nunn said this month at a Washington conference. "One of the things I hope we can do is pay some real attention, and put in a leadership role, to countries that have given up nuclear weapons."

I couldn't agree more. We believe our example should become international public knowledge and a factor in dealing with threshold countries.

Though our disarmament might seem something of the distant past, it also relates directly to present challenges to global security.

We still need to take care of what Mr. Nunn calls the human factor. As we moved to disarm and destroy the military infrastructure, scores of experienced nuclear scientists and biological specialists and their families, were left lingering in ghost towns with neither proper jobs nor means to live. They can be instrumental in commercial projects of conversion in such areas as the peaceful use of atomic energy and biotechnologies. The help from the United States will not only give them an opportunity to peacefully apply their skills, but will also strengthen our joint counterproliferation efforts at a time when numerous countries and terrorist groups continue to seek WMD.

Our cooperation with the United States in nonproliferation and fighting terrorism has served as a strong foundation for our relations, dubbed "strategic partnership" by Presidents Nursultan Nazarbayev and George Bush.

The people of Kazakhstan were outraged by the horrific attacks of September 11, and we have worked closely with the United States in bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan. As of now, more than 1,000 coalition aircraft have flown over Kazakhstan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. We have provided our major airport for the use by U.S. Air Force, and significantly expanded the cooperation between our armed forces and intelligence services.

We have supported the American-led efforts to disarm Saddam Hussein, who failed to present clear evidence of the disarmament of Iraq and hence bore the full responsibility for the military action. Today, we stand united in bringing stability to that country and the region.

It is crucial then that in this fragile time, policy-makers and people of both Kazakhstan and the United States make strong efforts to support our cooperation further. This will bode well with the long-term interests of both nations and will help us build a safer and more prosperous world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately I missed the votes on H.R. 1596 the "Timothy Michael Gaffney Post Office Building Designation Act," H.R. 1625 the "Robert P. Hammer Post Office Building Designation Act," and H.R. 1740 the "Dr. Caesar A.W. Clark, Sr. Post Office Building Designation Act." Had I been present, I would have voted for these bills.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WALLACE H. LEIPER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Wallace H. Leiper and the United States Merchant Marines for their great services to this Nation.

Mr. Leiper donated his model of the Liberty ship SS *Zebulon Pike* to the United States

Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York and sadly, he passed away the very day it arrived. He is a graduate of the Academy, the original "Pike" was his first ship and he served on several others in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans during World War II. The model is Mr. Leiper's labor of love and is intended to symbolize the contributions of all ships and seamen of the United States Merchant Marine as mandated by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936. It should also be noted that the Merchant Marines continue to deliver support to our Armed Forces for recovery efforts in Iraq as well as food for starving nations.

May 22nd is National Maritime Day and this year, two plaques honoring Mr. Leiper will be unveiled at the Academy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to honor Mr. Leiper and all the men and women of the United States Merchant Marine who serve our country both in peace and in war.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on rollcall votes 155, 156, 157 and 158. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 155, 156, and 158. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 157.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my district, I was unable to vote during four rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: No. 155—"yes"; No. 156—"no"; No. 157—"yes"; and No. 185—"yes".

FCC

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today concerning the Federal Communications Commission's, FCC, pending Triennial Review proceedings with respect to its potential effects on the health of the telecommunications industry.

There is no question that this sector is experiencing a decline in business and investment. Since the year 2000, more than 600,000 telecommunications-related jobs have been lost. Telephone companies have significantly reduced their capital spending. In fact, incumbent local telephone companies are hesitant to invest in broadband deployment due to regulatory uncertainty. With the lack of new infrastructure, equipment suppliers suffer, as do service providers and their employees, further stunting research and development. Ultimately, this slows consumer spending and demands for telecommunications services.

As we all are aware, there is a great deal of controversy with respect to the deployment of broadband services. This complex issue has divided Congress and the American people, as well as polarized segments of the telecommunications industry. However, we also know that broadband deployment is essential, especially in rural America. Communities in Ohio and the nation alike, equipped with broadband technology provide an environment encouraging economic growth by attracting new business, residents, knowledge, and jobs.

Mr. Speaker, as we in Congress continue to focus on spurring growth within the telecommunications sector, I thank the FCC for their efforts and ask that they create more certainty within the industry by moving expeditiously to complete action on the Triennial Review.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 157, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 157, the Pitts Amendment to H.R. 1298, a bill to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF KOREAN YOUTH IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Republic of Kazakhstan for their hospitality in hosting the first ever International Forum of Korean Youth Organizations. This forum has the goal of establishing an international framework for young Koreans throughout the world. These youth organizations are dedicated to the ideals of free markets and individual liberty. By hosting this democratic forum, Kazakhstan will further its growing international reputation as a free and democratic state.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is home to more than 14 million people and is the ninth largest nation in the world. It is an active member in the United Nations and the European Organization of Cooperation and Safety. After gaining their freedom on December 16, 1991, the emerging republic adopted a constitution on August 30, 1995.

Since 1998, the Korean Youth Movement in Kazakhstan, MDK, has been building relationships with different republic-minded organizations at home and abroad. By hosting the first international forum for Korean youth organizations around the world, the MDK is creating an environment to exchange experiences and build international cooperation throughout the Korean community.

Mr. Speaker, during this forum, young Korean leaders from around the world will be able to tour and sample the vibrant democracy that is flourishing in Kazakhstan. I ask that my

colleagues join me in commending our friends in the Parliament of Kazakhstan for their assistance and vision with this great International Forum on behalf of Korean Youth worldwide, and wish them much success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Tuesday May 6, 2003 and missed rollcall votes 159, 160, and 161. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 159, 160, and 161.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY "ACE" MILLER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerry "Ace" Miller, the long-time supervisor of boxing for the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, in my District.

Ace Miller is one of the most respected people in East Tennessee. He is part of a very influential group in our area called the "Burlington Boys," and we share many mutual friends.

Ace Miller has devoted his life to underprivileged young people by inspiring them to be the best that they can be no matter what they have to overcome in life. He has made a difference in the lives of many young men around the region.

Ace is widely regarded as a boxing expert all over the country and has made many friends around the Nation. He has long been associated with the Golden Gloves Charities and will continue to be the general manager of this great organization after his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry "Ace" Miller is a fine American who has touched the lives of countless young people. His dedication to the sport of boxing serves as an example for people all over our country. This Nation would be a much better place if there were more people here like Ace Miller.

I would like to congratulate Ace Miller on a tremendous career, and I urge all of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to read the fine article about him that was published in the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Mar. 20, 2003]

ACE MILLER RETIRES AS KNOXVILLE'S SUPERVISOR OF BOXING

(By Chuck Cavalaris)

Ace Miller wanted to try and keep news of his retirement quiet.

You might as well ask someone to bang a drum softly—for 33 years.

It just isn't going to happen.

Miller retired as the City of Knoxville's supervisor of boxing, effective Feb. 27. He survived everything from three heart attacks in a matter of hours in April 1999 to floods and personal threat at the gym. Miller was hired in 1970 by former mayor Kyle Testerman and will continue to be the general manager of Golden Gloves Charities.

"This is just a particular time in my life when I am not so sure what the future holds," said Miller, who is known as "The Colonel" and will be 64 on March 31. "We've had disasters galore, but the greatest tragedy is losing some of the great volunteers who have been a part of this program."

It was a huge loss when his sister-in-law, Shirley Eckard, lost a battle with cancer in the 1980s. Bobby Mills died several years earlier. Cotton Jackson will never be replaced. Nor will Skinny Miller, Don Marshall or former State Rep. Ted Ray Miller, who was Ace's big brother. Others come to mind, such as Jim Brown, Norman Anderson and Raleigh Johnson.

On the other hand, someone like Stan Hamilton remains a vital part of a model program. He just happens to be one of the most-respected boxing referees in the world. Dr. Robert Whittle has been a Hall of Fame volunteer, working alongside Con Hunley, Gene Limbaugh, Glenn Allen, Max Witt and Joyce Spraker. Longtime City Council members Jack Sharpe and Larry Cox have provided advice, along with friendship.

"No one person could possibly accomplish what we have accomplished," said Miller, whose group raises almost \$100,000 a year. "It takes a team effort and I am fortunate to have a family who has been a big part of my passion for doing this."

The team he was referring to includes assistant coach Steve Whitt, Regina Sams Odom, Tracy Miller Davis, Dusty Miller Graves, Jerry Miller, Ellen Luttrell and, of course, his wife Lady Di, or Dianna the Great.

"My time with the city has ended," Miller said, "but my time in the gym is not over. The floor needs to be mopped. Then somebody has to sweep it."

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHAMPAIGN-URBANA MEN'S TENNIS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the hard work, talent, and dedication of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana Men's Tennis Team. Recently, the team won the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Men's Indoor Championship, a victory which demonstrated the team's tenacity and willingness to continue to strive for new feats of excellence, as well as why they are such a source of pride to their school and the Champaign-Urbana community.

The University of Illinois Tennis Team was the first team to win this tournament since 1983 that was not from the State of California, and, in addition, was the first Mid-Western team to come in first in the 31-year history of the competition.

True leadership is needed to allow any team to reach its full potential. Such leadership is exemplified by the work of Coach Craig Tiley and University of Illinois Athletic Director Ron Guenther. Their determination and vision have made the U of I Tennis Team a force to be reckoned with on the national level. Credit must also go to the student athletes themselves, who put forth and incredible amount of effort and sacrifice to meet the high standards set by their coaching staff.

Athletics often demonstrates how intelligence, physical ability, leadership, and teamwork allow men and women to overcome

great odds. The victory of the University of Illinois Men's Tennis Team at the ITA Championship is a terrific example of these attributes and I would like to extend to them my most sincere congratulations.

HONORING ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity during National Police Week to honor all those courageous men and women serving as law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty. I appreciate their courage as well as the bravery of their families and loved ones, and hope that they know that they have our sympathies and are in our prayers.

In particular today, I want to pay my respects to David March, a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff, killed in the line of duty.

Last year, during a seemingly routine traffic stop, Deputy March, a 33 year-old husband and stepfather, was shot and killed. His suspected killer is an illegal immigrant who fled to Mexico to escape facing the bar of justice.

Mexican officials have refused to extradite his assailant, Garcia because he could face the death penalty or life in prison without possibility of parole. This is because the Mexican government usually refuses to extradite Mexican nationals who commit crimes in the United States and flee to Mexico, unless there are assurances that the death penalty and life imprisonment will not be sought.

We cannot allow such criminals to make a mockery of our justice system. In response to this barbaric act, I have introduced House Concurrent Resolution 93 to encourage President George W. Bush to work with the Mexican government to renegotiate our extradition treaty with Mexico so that other prospective killers may be thwarted and those cowardly hiding across the border may be brought to justice.

Family and friends will long remember the integrity of Deputy David March and together we will work to bring about this needed change in policy. As we engage in the endeavor, we will keep in the forefront of our minds the integrity and goodness of David March.

JOHN STEKETEE, PIONEER IN YOUTH LAW

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to regrettably announce the passing of a great jurist whose pioneering efforts in the field of juvenile law have changed much of the way we think about this complex and often controversial area of jurisprudence.

John Steketee was a third generation lawyer who spent over 30 years on the bench, mostly

as presiding/chief judge of the Kent County Michigan Probate Court, Juvenile Division. I came to know Judge Steketee when he was the leader of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and I was doing the research that would culminate in enactment of the P.L. 96-272, the national foster care and adoption reform law of 1980. Judge Steketee was one of the earliest jurists to focus on the importance of permanency planning for children who had entered into, and often became trapped within, the bureaucratic maze of the foster care system.

I frankly don't remember if I found him or he found me, but however it occurred, he played a hugely important role in shaping that legislation. Because of Judge Steketee's involvement, we were able to craft legislation that included case planning, periodic reviews of placement, and requirements for appropriateness of placements. He genuinely believed that the system had to be accountable to the child. The record of his achievements on the bench in Michigan, and his friendship with then-President Gerald Ford, helped many of those who might otherwise have been indifferent to recognize the workability and importance of the reforms we were proposing.

The first Children in Placement study was conducted in his court in 1971, which enabled him to discover lost children in the system and make sure that plans were being made for them. Through his association with them he was instrumental in successfully encouraging judges across the country to see permanency as an important issue for children and families, and that it was a duty for judges to hold all accountable for permanency to be achieved for all children. Judge Steketee was the first chair of the National Council's Permanency Planning Committee, and was the President of the Council 1984-1985. After retirement he continued to remain a strong advocate for permanency for the nation's children, and advocated for therapeutic juvenile and family drug courts.

I would like to extend my condolences and those of the House to his widow, Maribeth, his daughters Betsy Fenner and Martha Steketee, his three step-daughters, Erin Checchi, Leigh Baker, and Laurie Baker, and his seven grandchildren.

This is a man who made a great contribution to our nation and especially to its children and families, and I know the House joins me in paying respects to his memory. I would also like to include an article from the Grand Rapids Press on Judge Steketee.

[From the Grand Rapids Press, May 3, 2003]

JUDGE JOHN STEKETEE, A FORCE FOR CHILDREN, DIES AT 76
(By Doug Guthrie)

A voice for children in need was still Friday with the death of retired Kent County Probate Judge John Steketee.

Steketee, 76, died from heart failure at Spectrum Health Blodgett. He battled cancer since before his retirement in 2000, following 33 years on the bench.

"This is one of those people who may have been better known in the nation than you thought you knew him at home," said David Mitchell, executive director of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

With enthusiasm for openness and change, Steketee was a pioneer in efforts to move foster children more quickly into permanent homes. His reshaping of the juvenile welfare system in Kent County brought national attention.

Mitchell said word of Steketee's death triggered a stream of e-mails at his University of Nevada office in Reno.

"Without his example, leadership and vision, we would not have moved the judicial system to the rules and permanence for children that we have achieved," wrote Judge Richard Fitzgerald of Louisville, Ky. . . . His mentorship of all of us has helped us in building a just system."

Said Mitchell, who served 18 years as a judge in Baltimore: "He was a great man and mentor to so many of us. He taught men and women throughout this nation how to be judges and child advocates. He was loved."

His closest friends and family were at a loss Friday to explain what in Steketee's life gave him the strength to walk alone so many years ago against the current of conventional bureaucratic wisdom.

"I'm not sure what it was," said his son, John Steketee. "He loved his work and had a desire to help."

Press columnist Arn Shackleford for 35 years has written weekly stories about local children in need of adoptive parents. She said it was Steketee who encouraged her to start.

"The first quote I ever used from him was, 'You can't replace parental neglect with governmental neglect.' He was just a truly good person who loved kids," Shackleford said.

Raised on Grand Rapids' Southeast Side, Steketee became the third generation of his family to practice law. After earning degrees from the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, he joined the family firm in 1956. He carried on another family tradition, serving as the Netherlands' vice-consul for Michigan.

Steketee was elected to Kent County's Probate Court in 1967, handling estates, juvenile issues, and mental health commitments. The part of the job he liked best was obvious, as the man with the snow-white beard became known as the "Santa Claus Judge."

His office in the Waalkes Juvenile Center on Cedar Street NE became decorated over the years with hundreds of snapshots taken at adoption ceremonies, where Steketee had everyone in every adopted family swear under oath to love one another.

Off the job, he loved to sail. He owned two sailboats in his lifetime, the Shields and Twin Wing, berthed in Holland. He never raced, only cruised and relaxed on the waves.

Despite already being diagnosed with lung cancer, it was state law that prohibited Steketee from seeking another six years in office because of his age.

Even undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Steketee remained active in his retirement.

Mitchell said he spoke with Steketee last week about plans to attend the council's annual national convention in July in San Antonio.

Until recently, Steketee also served as a visiting judge, filling in for others on the Kent County Circuit bench. He often stopped by the Kent County Courthouse to lobby for a new idea, visit his old staff or simply find a lunch partner.

"He was fighting the cancer and trying to live his life," his wife, Maribeth, said Friday.

Judge Patrick Hillary, who was elected to Steketee's seat, said Friday was a busy day in court, but one with many pauses to reflect. Hillary used to practice as domestic relations attorney in front of Steketee, and when elected, inherited his staff and caseload.

"People say, 'You replaced Judge Steketee.' I'm always real careful to say, 'I succeeded Judge Steketee,'" Hillary said. "Nobody could replace him."

TRIBUTE TO THE JAMES L. WEST
ALZHEIMER'S CARE FACILITY IN
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tenth anniversary year of the James L. West Alzheimer's Care Facility in Fort Worth, Texas and to recognize the many accomplishments of its founding executive director, Moira A. Reinhardt, R.N.

The West Center, founded in 1993, was established in part by a major gift from the James and Eunice West Foundation and it continues to receive the support of many other generous North Texas foundations, individuals, corporations and organizations. The center was the Southwest's first free-standing facility devoted exclusively to the care of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and has been nationally recognized for its excellence of care and its commitment to helping its residents maintain a restraint-free life style.

Moira A. Reinhardt, nationally known as a pioneer in the establishment and management of centers for Alzheimer's care, was selected as the West Center's first executive director. A native of Scotland, Ms. Reinhardt was trained as a medical/surgical nurse in Britain. She first established a home care program for the elderly in Scotland and then, inspired by the example of Mother Theresa, served the poor in Guatemala as a nurse in the British Overseas Volunteer Program. Ms. Reinhardt became a U.S. citizen September 17, 1996.

Before coming to Fort Worth and the West Center, Ms. Reinhardt was the founding executive director of the Pikes Peak Hospice, Inc., and later became the founding administrator of Namaste Alzheimer's Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

She has lent her expertise to both state and national boards dealing with health care for the elderly and in 1989 served as chairperson for the National Hospice Organization. Recently the directors of the West Center honored her by establishing the Moira A. Reinhardt Continuing Education Scholarship Fund to further the education of the Center's nursing staff and the city of Fort Worth proclaimed April 2, 2003 Moira A. Reinhardt Day.

I ask that the House of Representatives join me in recognizing the important role the James L. West Alzheimer's Care Center plays in the care of the elderly of North Texas and honoring Moira A. Reinhardt for her lifelong commitment to compassionate health care.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ERIC K.
SHINSEKI, 34TH CHIEF OF STAFF
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, Congressman CHET EDWARDS and I take this opportunity today to honor General Eric K. Shinseki, the 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army. As co-chairs of the House Army Caucus, Con-

gressman EDWARDS and I have had the privilege of working with General Shinseki as he advanced and shaped the greatest land force in the history of the world—the United States Army.

After more than 35 years service to the nation, General Shinseki will retire from the United States Army in June. Throughout his career, General Shinseki's actions have epitomized those of a soldier, leader, and consummate professional. Always mission-focused and soldier-centered, he upheld the Army's non-negotiable mission contract with the American people to fight and win the nation's wars, while never forgetting that it is the sacrifice and skill of the American soldier that makes those victories possible.

General Eric K. Shinseki began his Army career after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1965. He served two combat tours in the Republic of Vietnam. Despite receiving severe injuries while serving in Vietnam, General Shinseki went back into battle. Although he could have left the Army for other pursuits, General Shinseki remained on active duty out of his utmost respect for the young American soldier he encountered in Vietnam. General Shinseki excelled in command and staff assignments both in the continental United States and overseas. He commanded the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, became Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans at Headquarters Department of the Army, served as the Commanding General, United States Army Europe, Commander Allied Land Forces Central Europe; and Commander, NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 1998, he assumed the duties as the 28th Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

On June 22, 1999, General Shinseki became the Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Since assuming that position, General Shinseki's commitment and leadership have contributed immeasurably to ensuring that America's Army is unmatched by any in our history in its skill and professionalism. Understanding the challenges posed by the 21st Century, General Shinseki began a transformation that will fundamentally reform the Army and position it for continuing excellence and achievement in the coming decades. Even while guiding the Army through this profound change, his leadership shaped this proud service's contributions and successes in the Global War on Terrorism, in Operation Noble Eagle—the defense of the American Homeland, in Operation Enduring Freedom—the attack on Al Qaeda's lair, and Operation Iraqi Freedom—the liberation of Iraq. He has melded one Army—active, National Guard and Reserve. Indeed, General Shinseki has successfully guided these monumental efforts and today leaves the Army, and the men and women who serve in it, in the very highest state of combat readiness.

Mr. Speaker, the freedoms we cherish come at a price. Our nation has been fortunate to have men and women willing to come forward at times of crisis and challenge to pay that price. Among that number must be counted General Eric K. Shinseki. Through the sacrifices and dedication of Americans like him, our nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and to strive for the betterment of mankind across the globe. It is with profound admiration and deep appreciation that we pay tribute to General Shinseki for all that he has

done for the United States Army and this country. On behalf of a grateful nation, we thank General Eric K. Shinseki, the 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

RECOGNITION FOR KENNETH
BANKS, JR.

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Kenneth Banks, Jr. of North Hollywood, California for his service to the community and this nation. Ken is a long time member of Rotary International and is retiring from his post as a regional governor for Southern California.

Rotary International was founded on three key points: Provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards and build goodwill and peace in the world. During his tenure as governor, Ken worked tirelessly to promote these principles and encouraged others in the community to join him. And he always followed the Rotary motto: Service Above Self.

Ken and his wife, Shirley, have three children and six grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with his family and makes that a priority even with his demanding schedule. He loves the community that he serves, and will continue to serve even in his retirement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. ROBERT
C. ATKINS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last month, our nation lost an important healthcare advocate and physician, Robert C. Atkins M.D., who lived in New York City and touched the lives of millions of people with his innovative approaches to diet and lifestyle. I know this because many patients he worked with were from New Jersey and his books on diet and nutrition were purchased by millions of people worldwide.

I would like to note that I also knew of Dr. Atkins because of his steadfast support and belief in the use of dietary supplements as a key component to achieving and maintaining good health. He was one of the earliest supporters of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act, legislation that I supported as an original cosponsor, which was enacted into law almost ten years ago.

The Atkins Nutritional Approach has caused us to continually re-evaluate and consider how we can improve health and nutritional recommendations as a country. In addition, we cannot ignore its contribution as one of several methods for addressing the growing obesity, heart disease, and diabetes epidemic facing us. I know more research and work will continue on Dr. Atkins' findings and experience with diet and nutrition. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, I will continue to closely follow this work.

Dr. Atkins leaves behind a legacy that will endure. A memorial service is being held in New York City on May 9th and those of us in the House of Representatives who knew him and of his work join with all of those who mourn the loss of a great American.

HONORING JOSEPH THOMAS
MURPHY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Murphy, a retired major in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Tomorrow he will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Major Murphy led an admirable life, and he was an American hero.

Mr. Speaker, Major Murphy was the husband of Madonna (Hogan) Murphy, to whom he had been married 59 years. Born in Taunton, Massachusetts on May 9, 1918, he was the son of the late Michael and Catherine (McGuire) Murphy. Major Murphy was raised and educated in Taunton, and had resided in Attleboro, Massachusetts since 1965. He graduated from Taunton High School and earned a bachelor's degree in management from Bentley College.

Mr. Speaker, Major Murphy served for 17 years in the USMC from 1946 to 1963. He received many awards and commendations including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Army Distinguished Unit Emblem, the American Campaign Medal, and the China Service Medal. Major Murphy was also awarded the Air Medal, the World War Two Victory Medal, the Navy Occupation Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Mr. Speaker, Major Murphy and his wife Madonna raised a large family. He is survived by five children: one daughter and four sons. Additionally, Major Murphy was the grandfather to 12 grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in expressing gratitude to Major Murphy for his years of service to our nation. Moreover, I ask that my colleagues keep Mrs. Murphy and her family in their thoughts.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1298, UNITED STATES
LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS,
TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1298) to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 and in support of amendments that would strengthen this bill in helping address the AIDS pandemic in Africa. The bill before the House today seeks to prevent 7 million new HIV/AIDS infections, provide care and support for 10 million HIV-infected people and provide antiretroviral therapy for millions of victims over the next 5 years.

Africa is a continent far removed from the everyday lives of most Americans, both in its geographic location and in its distinction among the other populations of the world. But it is a continent whose future has profound implications for the future of the United States.

Sub-Saharan Africa has approximately 10 percent of the world's population, a remarkable history and numerous natural resources. Unfortunately, it also is plagued with the pandemic known as HIV/AIDS that has caught the attention of the international community. In recent years, more than 21 million Africans have died of AIDS, including more than 2 million in 2001. AIDS has surpassed malaria as the leading cause of death and threatens to cripple and destroy African life. An alarming 70 percent of the world's AIDS victims live in Africa. With far more dying from AIDS in Africa than from all its wars and conflicts, we cannot ignore the perilous state of affairs faced by our fellow men.

Of particular concern to me is the fact that 58 percent of those infected with the virus are women who are passing this deadly disease to their children. More than 600,000 infants are HIV infected each year in Africa because of mother-to-child transmission. As one generation passes the deadly virus on to the next, we are witnessing a self-sustaining genocide.

The more than 11 million AIDS orphans living in Africa are crying out from malnutrition, and their chances of obtaining an education are severely reduced. These innocent little children are the product of a crisis that is bringing even more severe economic hardship to a land already stranded in poverty. Life expectancy in some African countries has dropped by decades, and agricultural production has declined as workers with AIDS die or become unable to perform their work.

With the leadership of President Bush, the United States is stepping up its efforts to deal with this problem. Not only are we reaching out because of moral principle and human compassion, but also because we recognize the national security implications of not engaging with the AIDS crisis in Africa.

With radical Islamic terrorist cells thriving in poverty-stricken countries, we must acknowledge and address the AIDS pandemic that can fuel desperation, and ultimately, hospitality toward violent groups that seek destruction of America. With an estimated 55 million Africans who will lose their lives to AIDS by 2020, the United States has both an opportunity and an obligation to help defeat AIDS in order to bring stability to these suffering countries. Already, African militaries are feeling the results of high infection rates among their soldiers. As countries lose their ability to maintain peace, anarchy will take over and deliver further havoc on society. If the problem is ignored, the ability of terrorists to recruit more sympathizers will only multiply. By helping prevent the further spread of this horrible disease, we can help ensure that terrorists are given no safe harbor in Africa.

As William J. Bennett and Charles Colson recently stated in the Washington Times, "Al Qaeda networks operating in Africa remind us that, like it or not, no part of the world can any longer be isolated from any other part. If an entire continent sinks into despair and anarchy, the whole world will be affected."

While I support H.R. 1298, I want to express my strong support for amended language that would designate funds for prevention and treatment programs that have an outstanding track record of drastically reducing the number of infected individuals. For example, the world has finally acknowledged how effective Uganda's ABC program has been in reducing the number of HIV/AIDS victims. H.R. 1298 is right to commend the ABC program along with the excellent leadership of President Yoweri Museveni.

Uganda's ABC program "Abstain, Be faithful, use Condoms", in order of priority, has dropped infection rates from 22 percent in 1992 to 7 percent in 2002. This remarkable, yet simple, program first promotes abstaining from sexual relationships until marriage. Rather than blindly pass out condoms, the ABC program promotes a lifestyle of abstinence that guarantees to protect individuals against sexually transmitting the HIV/AIDS virus.

Secondly, the Ugandan ABC program encourages partners to remain faithful to each other. In working to promote faithfulness between married couples, this low-cost program encourages fidelity as a means of reducing the spreading of the virus between multiple partners. With the percentage of sexually active youth falling significantly and the increasing number of Ugandans reporting none or one sexual partner in the past decade, the results speak for themselves.

Thirdly, use of condoms is encouraged as a means to help reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS for those who choose not to abstain.

Congressman JOE PITTS has offered an amendment to HR 1298 that will require 33 percent of AIDS prevention funds be directed to abstinence-until-marriage programs. I stand in full support of this amendment that is supported by both the White House and Chairman HYDE. By supporting pro-family, proven methods that prevent the spread of AIDS, we will most effectively bring an end to this crisis.

I also want to voice my support for the amendment offered today by Congressman CHRIS SMITH that would clarify the right of organizations having moral or religious objections to certain prevention methods to remain eligible for this funding. While there is language in H.R. 1298 to prevent such discrimination, the language is vague and might not offer sufficient protection from bias against these fine groups.

In Africa, there are organizations offering excellent programs to local communities to fight against the spread of AIDS but who have moral objections to condom promotion. It is important these groups are allowed to compete for funding and continue their successful programs. It is to the advantage of the African people that we have the largest pool from which to choose applicants.

As the House of Representatives moves forward with passage of this historic legislation to fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa, let us remember the millions who have already lost their lives and the remaining tens of millions who are currently afflicted with this dreadful virus of death.

I hope and pray we can unite with our African neighbors to bring an end to the AIDS crisis. It is no longer just their problem—it is particularly ours as well.

THE ASTHMA OBESITY LINKAGE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Week, I am today introducing the "Medicaid Obesity Treatment Act of 2003" to elevate the visibility of a national health epidemic that is wreaking havoc upon our Nation. Scientific evidence demonstrates a strong correlation between obesity and asthma, particularly among children.

This bill, which is similar to legislation I introduced last year with Congressman JAMES GREENWOOD, will provide Medicaid coverage for medically necessary treatments for chronically obese beneficiaries. With this legislation, I hope to raise the level of attention to this devastating illness and to provide medically necessary treatments to millions of overweight children who suffer from obesity comorbidities such as asthma. If the Congress passes this legislation, The Medicaid Obesity Treatment Act will be the first legislation ever enacted to address the need to ensure access for all Americans to drug therapies designed to treat obesity and its related comorbidities, and I am proud to be its sponsor.

According to the Surgeon General, the prevalence of overweight and obesity has almost doubled among America's children and adolescents since 1980. It is estimated that one out of five children is obese. The epidemic growth in obesity acquired during childhood or adolescence is particularly threatening to the national health because it often persists into adulthood and increases the risk for some chronic diseases, such as asthma, later in life.

Obesity has truly become a national health care crisis. The National Center for Health Statistics reports that 60 percent of Americans over 20 years of age are overweight or clinically obese. Weight-related conditions represent the second leading cause of death in the United States, and result in approximately 300,000 preventable deaths each year.

Researchers from Cincinnati Children's Hospital recently discovered a new gene involved in asthma that may provide a link between the development of asthma and obesity. The study, released at the 60th anniversary meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, examined the gene which belongs to a family of similar proteins that have been found to cause insulin resistance and obesity in mice. Another recent study by the Harvard School of Medicine of 16,862 children, ages 9 to 14, found that those who were the most overweight were two to three times as likely to have asthma as the least overweight subjects.

Whether obesity is caused by genetics, environment, lifestyle, diet or a combination of these elements, its effect is devastating for all persons who suffer from it. However, science has made great strides in recent years to combat it. Several new drugs offer great promise in the fight to prevent and treat obesity and its related comorbidities.

My bill will revisit a thirteen year old provision that allows states to exclude Medicaid coverage for weight loss drugs, even in cases where these drugs have the potential to save obese patients' lives or to improve their related conditions like asthma. The notion that obesity is merely a lifestyle choice and not a disease is no longer valid scientifically, and must be stricken from the law. Medically necessary medicine for the treatment of chronic obesity and its related illnesses should be covered under Medicaid like any other medically necessary drug. This is the purpose and goal of my bill.

Although this expansion in Medicaid coverage might incur some marginal cost to the overall program, requiring states to cover proven obesity medication may actually reduce Medicaid expenditures as a result of decreases in the costs associated with treating asthma and other obesity-related comorbidities. Given the numerous benefits of reducing obesity, we should be providing access to life saving anti-obesity treatments, just as we provide medications for other life threatening diseases.

Obesity and asthma represent related growing health crises that must be addressed with more than just words. This bill offers an important first step towards eliminating obesity, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

HONORING DON HILL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Don Hill of La Junta, Colorado for his contributions to historical preservation and our National Park Service. Don is retiring, having served with the National Park Service in Colorado for thirty-three years, and today I would like to thank him for his service before this body of Congress and this nation.

After beginning a career with the National Park Service at Curecanti National Recreation Area and Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Colorado National Monuments, Don came to Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site in 1986 as the site's superintendent. Don has worked hard to make Bent's Fort an integral part of the Southeastern Colorado Community. He served as president of the Southeast Colorado Tourism Council, and in 1993 he coordinated the Santa Fe Trail Association's National Symposium, bringing over 500 tourists to the area. Additionally Don is an active member of the local Rotary Club and the La Junta Chamber of Commerce. Among other accomplishments, in 1993 Don worked with the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes of Oklahoma to repatriate Native American remains discovered during archaeological work at the fort.

Mr. Speaker, Don Hill has served as a steward of this country's natural treasures for over thirty years and has played an integral role in the development of Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site. Today I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize one of the National Park Service's best. Don's dedication is a credit to himself and to Colorado, and I thank him for his service.

HONORING ANN MILLER AND TED MALIARIS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker. I would like to honor two great Americans, Ann Miller and Ted Maliaris, for their patriotic commitment to this nation.

Ann Miller has written "A Tribute to America—A 21st Century Anthem," which highlights the greatness of America and its ability to overcome recent tragedies. Her son, Ted Maliaris, delivers this anthem with an unparalleled sense of patriotism.

America was founded on principles of freedom and democracy that stand as the very foundation of our society today. While our troops are abroad, we must never forget the importance of the very principles that make this nation great. "A Tribute to America—A 21st Century Anthem" clearly illustrates the power of freedom that America represents. Its patriotic message highlights the very strength that has served as the foundation of the American spirit since the tragedies of September 11.

I would like to thank Ann Miller and Ted Maliaris for their dedication to America and their commitment to spreading their important message across the Nation.

I proudly insert the following lyrics of "A Tribute to America—A 21st Century Anthem" in the RECORD:

Our tears may fall and our hearts may be shattered, but deep down in our souls we are strong, we are proud, we are bold.

We have freedom in our land, we will fight for our rights, we will stand up for the brotherhood of man. America America America you're Grand.

We have strength, we have the power, no terrorist could ever withstand. We will not hide, we will not cower, we will stand up for the rights of our land.

We're America, America
Strong, Proud, Brave, Bold
We're America, America
Strong, Proud, Brave, Bold
America red, white, and blue
America, this song we sing for you.

In time of need, compassion fills our hearts, in times of dismay we are strong.

We're a land of freedom, a land of peace, and no one can take this away.

We're America, America
America you're Grand
No one can destroy us through thick or thin, we're a nation that was built to survive.

No terrorist's plight can destroy our sight or the strength of this motherland.

We're America, America, America
America you're Grand.

God extended his hand and has given us faith, for we will stand tall and proud. We're a land of freedom, a land of peace, a land like no other land.

We're America, America
Strong, Proud, Brave, Bold
We're America, America
Strong, Proud, Brave, Bold
America, America you're Grand
America, America you're Grand
America!

TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, on February 20, 2003, the Federal Communications Commission agreed to change its rules to make it easier for telephone companies to deploy broadband facilities. It is now May, and the FCC has yet to issue the actual rules from that decision.

On February 20, Washington, DC was still digging out from a major snowstorm, and most area schools were still closed. By the time the FCC issues its order, Washington weather will probably be that lovely mix of high humidity and 90 degree heat. When the FCC voted on February 20, we were wearing our heavy winter coats and snow boots. By the time the order is issued, we will be wearing seersucker suits and white shoes.

On February 20, Major League Baseball players were just beginning to gather in Florida and Arizona for spring training. Since then, spring training has been completed, rosters have been finalized, and about 20 percent of the season has been played.

On February 20, U.S. forces were amassing in the Persian Gulf Region. Since then, our troops have rolled through Iraq and ousted Saddam. Clearly, it takes the U.S. military less time to dethrone a vicious dictator than it takes the FCC to write the rules for an order it already agreed upon.

How long do you think these past two-and-a-half months have been for those workers and families of workers laid off in the telecommunications industry? How many more workers lost their jobs in that time? How many who were laid off could have been put back to work?

One thing is clear, broadband deployment will not start in earnest until the FCC sets the right policy rules. That has to start now by issuing the rules agreed upon back in February.

TRIBUTE TO SHELBY CRAWFORD
OF EUREKA SPRINGS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Arkansas student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Shelby Crawford of Eureka Springs has just been named one of the top youth volunteers by The 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Crawford is being recognized for organizing a petting zoo event that raised more than \$1000 for a local horse rescue center.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their

communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Crawford are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past eight years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 150,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Crawford should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Crawford for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CARE AND ACCESS TO
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation to address a major obstacle our nation's veterans face in obtaining comprehensive health care and access to prescription drugs.

According to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA pharmacy benefit is the primary reason that veterans without service-connected disabilities use VA healthcare services. Nearly 90 percent of these veterans have access to private health care and private physicians, yet they wait in lengthy lines at the VA in order to be re-examined and re-tested so they can receive their prescription drugs through the VA. This causes veterans with a prescription already in hand to wait weeks, even months before it is filled and creates a backlog of veterans waiting for doctor appointments.

My legislation would ease the process by which veterans with private health insurance or Medicare coverage obtain prescription drugs through the VA healthcare system. Specifically, it would allow an eligible veteran, with a prescription written by a private physician, to fill that prescription at a VA pharmacy from the

current VA formulary. My legislation differs from other prescription drug access proposals because it specifically limits the prescriptions to drugs listed under the VA formulary in order to limit the cost of implementation. Under current law, the VA does not have the authority to dispense prescriptions written by private sector physicians.

As chairman of the Ways & Means health subcommittee, I recognize the unique challenge that the VA faces in its mission to provide comprehensive quality health care service to veterans. However, strict adherence to that same mission has resulted in lengthy delays in the delivery of quality care to both veterans with private health coverage and those veterans that are entirely dependent on the VA as their healthcare provider.

In order to ensure timely delivery of health care, the VA must focus on the barriers veterans face in receiving care including streamlining access to prescription drugs.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOLENE
HYATT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege today to recognize an outstanding educator from my district. Jolene Hyatt of La Junta, Colorado is my state's nominee for the 2003 National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. Her fellow teachers nominated her not only for her skill in the classroom but also for her professional leadership and involvement in the community.

Jolene has taught kindergarten in La Junta since 1975. She is a lifelong learner and advocate for education. Her dedication to her profession, her students, and her community is extraordinary. Jolene has served selflessly on a number of educational committees and organizations and is the past president of the La Junta Education Association. She currently contributes as a member of the La Junta Education Association's negotiations committee and is a member of the school improvement committee. She has been named to Who's Who Among American Teachers and is a recipient of the Heart of Learning Award, recognizing teachers who inspire students to learn and go the extra mile with students and parents after school hours.

Mr. Speaker, Jolene has inspired and gone the extra mile for two generations of students in my district and plans to continue her work as an advocate when she retires from teaching. While she is now a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award, she prefers to direct attention away from herself and onto the children she helps to educate. Jolene's achievement and team spirit serves as an inspiration to her students, her peers, and her community. Her tireless dedication beyond the call of duty—both in and out of the classroom—has made La Junta and all of Colorado proud. Congratulations Jolene, and good luck with your future endeavors.

MILITARY FAMILY PEACE OF
MIND ACT**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my dear friend from California, Mr. GALLEGLY, to introduce the Military Family Peace of Mind Act. We believe this is simple, but important legislation for the loved ones of military personnel who have died in the service of our nation.

It goes without saying that the loss of a loved one is difficult no matter what the situation. Despite knowing the potential risks associated with the military service of their family member, the burden can be even more difficult when it occurs suddenly such as when our men and women are killed on the field of battle. Families need time to grieve for their loved ones and that need is particularly acute when the spouse or parent of one of our fallen heroes must tell dependent children of the loss. Unfortunately the process for providing notice to the media about military personnel killed allows for that critical time to grieve.

The current process for notifying next of kin about the loss of their cherished family member falls to the individual services. Once the casualty assistance officer of the respective service notifies the family members, the officer then forwards notice of the visit to the Office of Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, who in turn promptly issues a release to the media identifying the individual. Although this is done with an eye towards providing full and open access to information about military operations as practical, we have heard from family members that this notification has actually resulted in swarms of media harassing family members trying to get a story. One spouse commented that she had had little time to grieve because her entire energies were being spent trying to fend off aggressive press inquiries. The need for open access to information aside, that is no way to respect a family who has just learned that their spouse, son, or daughter was killed while defending our country.

It is true the Department of Defense does not and cannot control the conduct of members of the media, but actions can be taken to help these grieving families. One specific step that can be taken is to implement a minimum 24-hour delay from the time a casualty assistance officer notifies the next of kin about their loss until the time that name is released to the media and the public. A 24-hour delay would not unreasonably impair the public's access to information about military activities, but could provide an immeasurable amount of relief to those who have endured the loss. That is what this bill seeks to do.

Mr. Speaker, these families have already paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country's freedom. A 24-hour waiting period prior to public notification is not too much for the families of our fallen heroes to ask of us.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SHEET METAL WORKERS' INTER-
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION LOCAL
UNION NO. 104**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I know that all Members of the House of Representatives will want to join me in saluting the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, Local Union No. 104 on the 100th anniversary of its founding. Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104, through its many members over the last 100 years, has long played a vital role in protecting and organizing workers throughout Northern California.

The Sheet Metal Workers' International Association was first formed on January 25, 1888, in Toledo, Ohio. Since that day, local unions throughout the country have fought to protect the rights of workers in a wide variety of trades and job types; encompassing workers from tinsmiths to high tech specialists.

Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 was formed on May 7, 1903, and is dedicated to the mission " * * * to establish and maintain desirable working conditions and thus provide for themselves and their families that measure of comfort, happiness, and security to which every citizen is entitled in return for his labor, from a deep sense of pride in our trade, to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay."

Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 membership includes individuals from the geographic regions of: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Santa Clara, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Trinity Counties. Furthermore, Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 currently represents more than 8,000 members local-wide, and is accredited with one of the most successful Organizing Programs in the country. The Union has organized approximately 50 new shops in that past two and a half years alone.

Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104's members are highly skilled craftspeople specializing in areas such as heating, air conditioning and ventilation, and architectural sheet metal. These members' work is attributed with achieving higher quality of air in homes, office buildings, medical facilities, schools and other official buildings, in addition to contributions to various architectural features such as copper roofs, stainless casing and bronze architecture which can be seen throughout many cities; an example of this work is the copper dome on San Francisco's City Hall.

Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104's efforts to raise the standard of living and protect individual rights for its membership, as well as other workers throughout the region, are deserving of our attention and admiration.

Mr. Speaker, I join Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104's officers and members in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of their founding, and I salute the work of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, Local Union No. 104. I encourage my colleagues to similarly respect the positive impacts the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association has had within their home districts and States,

and I encourage them to express their support of this historic anniversary for the Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104.

TAKING STOCK IN ROMANIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the consolidation of democracy in Romania. As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—the Helsinki Commission—I have followed events in Romania for many years. The Romanian people have survived the repression of a brutal communist dictatorship and, in the years since the fall of that regime, have made great strides in building democratic institutions and the rule of law. However, much remains to be done to overcome the legacy of the past.

Romania is a good friend and strong ally of the United States. I appreciate and thank the Government of Romania for its steadfast support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where a battalion serves on the ground, and for its support of the U.S.-led military action in Iraq. Romania has been offered the much sought after admission to NATO, and today the Senate began debate on the Protocols of Accession. Romania is also an accession candidate to the EU.

It is in the spirit of friendship that I continue to follow the human rights issues there, based on a belief that Romania will be a stronger democracy, and therefore a stronger partner, when respect for human rights is strengthened. Frankly, I am concerned that, following Romania's invitation to join NATO, the reform momentum in Bucharest may have dissipated.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is no greater barometer of democracy than free speech and freedom of the press. While there is no doubt that the Romanian people have access to a broad range of print and electronic media, 13 years after the fall of Ceausescu, Romanian law still includes communist-era criminal defamation provisions which impose prison terms for offenses such as "insult" or "offense against authority." These laws cause a chilling effect on independent and investigative journalism and should be repealed.

Today, I received a letter from Foreign Minister Geoana, informing me that a new draft Penal Code would do exactly that. This is encouraging news, and I will follow this process closely with the hope that articles 205, 206, 236, 236(1), 238, and 239 of the Romanian Penal Code will actually be repealed and not just modified.

Mr. Speaker, there is no international requirement that countries must make property restitution or provide compensation for confiscated properties. However, if a legal process for property restitution or compensation is established, international law requires that it be nondiscriminatory and be implemented under the rule of law. Property restitution in Romania since the fall of communism has been slow and ineffective, and the laws—which the government has enacted to address the problem—lack transparency, are complex, and have not been effectively implemented.

Restitution of communal property—for example churches or synagogues—is especially

difficult. In 1948, Romania's communist government banned the Greek Catholic (Uniate) Church and ordered the incorporation of the Greek Catholic Church into the Orthodox Church. More than 2,500 churches and other buildings seized from the Uniates were given to Orthodox parishes. The government decree that dismantled the Greek Catholic Church was abrogated in 1989, however, of the thousands of properties confiscated from Greek Catholics, fewer than 200 have been returned nearly 15 years later. The status of thousands of properties belonging to the historic Hungarian faiths (Roman Catholic, Reformed, Lutheran and Unitarian), and the Jewish community, as well as other non-traditional religions has not been resolved, despite the enactment of a communal property restitution law in July of 2002.

The restitution of private property in Romania is equally as murky. In February 2001, the Romanian Parliament enacted Law 10/2001, the express purpose of which, according to Article 1 (1) of the Law, is to make restitution in-kind of nationalized real property and, whenever such in-kind restitution is not possible, to make restitution in an equivalent consisting of cash for residential properties and vouchers to be used in exchange for shares of state-owned companies or services. This clearly stated principle has been undermined by so many exceptions that it becomes virtually meaningless. Those claimants who have overcome the numerous exceptions contained in the law have then been stymied by government recalcitrance when they have attempted to obtain the necessary documentation to support their claims. Many title deeds were purposely destroyed by the former communist regime. State archives, having been deluged with a significant volume of requests, complicate the process with chronic bureaucratic delays in processing property records, and seeming indifference to the urgency of those requests. The Government of Romania cannot expect claimants to file within prescribed deadlines, and then not provide them with the means to obtain the proof of their claims from the government's own records.

Further, I am disappointed by the ineffective and inadequate attempts of the Romanian Government to register the Jehovah's Witnesses as an official religion. The inability of the government to make this happen is a seri-

ous concern, as it is more than an issue of legal personality, but also of rule of law, religious freedom and discrimination. In October 2001, I received personal assurances from Foreign Minister Geoana that this longstanding matter would be resolved; it has not despite a ruling by Romania's highest court dating back to 2000. The Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs seemed to provide a fix in October of last year, but it proved faulty and failed to bring closure to this matter. Mr. Speaker, I urge the competent Romanian authorities to remove this issue from the agenda by facilitating the recognition of the Jehovah's Witnesses as an official religion without further delay.

Another matter which I hope the Government of Romania will bring to closure is the rehabilitation and honoring of World War II dictator, Marshall Ion Antonescu, Hitler ally and war criminal condemned for the mass murder of Jews. Last year government officials publicly condemned efforts to honor Antonescu and removed from public land three statues that had been erected in his honor. One statue remains on public land in Jilava, the site of Antonescu's execution, and important streets in the cities of Timisoara and Oradea continue to be named after him. I urge the Government of Romania to remove these remaining vestiges honoring the former dictator.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my continuing concern about the Romani minority in Romania. I appreciate that Romania was the first country in Central Europe to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. This was an extremely important and positive step. But there appears to be a rising tide of intolerance against Roma, manifested by scapegoating of Roma in the media and in the statements of some public officials. In all likelihood, this climate contributed to the tragic events in Buhusi last December, when a number of Roma were shot during a police raid, including a 14-year-old boy who was reportedly shot in the back. I hope the Romanian Government will play a leadership role in countering prejudice against Roma and will continue to implement programs to address discrimination against them.

Protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and human rights, as well as commitment to the Helsinki Final Act and respect for Organization for Security and Cooperation

in Europe norms and principles, are requirements for NATO membership. As a participating State of the OSCE, and as a candidate for admission to NATO, Romania has made that commitment. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Romania will use this opportunity to strengthen its democracy, not retreat from it.

HONORING DORIS GREGORY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Doris Gregory for her contributions to the Ouray community. For the last twenty-five years Doris has been one of Ouray's most prolific historians, writing more than a dozen books about the community, its buildings and families. Today I would like to acknowledge her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Doris was not always a historian. After she graduated from the University of Washington, Doris moved to Alaska with her new husband and ran a small newspaper. Later she earned a doctorate in education and embarked on a thirty-year career in teaching and administration in three different states, authoring textbooks and spending summer vacations in Ouray. By the time Doris retired in 1978, she and her husband owned a home in Ouray, and Doris began spending a lot of time in the county archives. Among her books, Doris has authored a two-volume comprehensive history of Ouray. As an important local authority, Doris has also volunteered countless hours at the Ouray County Historical Museum and given lectures.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Doris Gregory for her hard work and dedication to documenting the history of an important region of Colorado. Doris has almost single-handedly preserved the history of Ouray County for future generations, and I thank her for her efforts.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 9

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-222

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To continue hearings to examine media ownership.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine Project Safe Neighborhoods, focusing on gun violence.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Steven B. Nesmith, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Jose Teran, of Florida, James Broadbuss, of Texas, Lane Carson, of Louisiana, and Paul Pate, of Iowa, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences, Nicholas Gregory Mankiw, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

SD-538

Appropriations

Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Transportation Security Administration, and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

SD-124

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 452, to require that the Secretary of the Interior conduct a study to identify sites and resources, to recommend alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the Cold War, S. 500, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study certain sites in the historic district of Beau-

fort, South Carolina, relating to the Reconstruction Era, S. 601, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the McLoughlin House National Historic Site in Oregon City, Oregon, for inclusion in the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, S. 612, to revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona, H.R. 788, to revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona, S. 630, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed, and H.R. 519, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Finance

International Trade Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the status of the free trade area of the Americas, focusing on negotiations and preparations for the Miami Ministerial.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 520, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in the State of Idaho, S. 625, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies in the Tualatin River Basin in Oregon, S. 960, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize certain projects in the State of Hawaii and to amend the Hawaii Water Resources Act of 2000 to modify the water resources study, S. 649, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects within the San Diego Creek Watershed, California, and S. 993, to amend the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956.

SD-366

MAY 14

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Columbia Space Shuttle investigation.

SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 888, to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act, S. 686, to provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers, S. 504, to establish academics for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and S. 754, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve immunization rates by increasing the distribution of vaccines and improving and clarifying the vaccine injury compensation program.

SD-430

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business, to be immediately followed by oversight hearings to examine the role of funding of the Federal National Indian Gaming Commission.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill.

SR-328A

2:15 p.m.

Judiciary

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine recruitment of terrorists in prison.

SD-226

MAY 15

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine Title XI Reform.

SR-253

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on state and local governments.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Fair Credit Reporting Act and issues presented by the Re-authorization of the Expiring Preemption Provisions.

SD-538

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 575, to amend the Native American Languages Act to provide for the support of Native American language survival schools.

SR-485

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Foreign Operations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimate for fiscal year 2004 for foreign operations.

SD-138

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susanne T. Marshall, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Neil McPhie, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Terrence A. Duffy, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, and Thomas Waters Grant, of New York, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

SR-253

MAY 20

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the future of U.S. economic relations in the Western Hemisphere.

SD-419

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider an original bill to authorize foreign assistance for fiscal year 2004, to make technical and administrative changes to the Foreign Assistance and Arms Export Control Acts and to authorize a Millennium Challenge Account.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the proposed reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

SR-485

MAY 22

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the status of telecommunications in Indian Country.

SR-485

JUNE 3

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the status of tribal fish and wildlife management programs.

SR-485

JUNE 4

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 281, to amend the Transportation Equity Act

for the 21st Century to make certain amendments with respect to Indian tribes, to provide for training and technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in commercial vehicle driving careers, and S. 725, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to provide from the Highway Trust Fund additional funding for Indian reservation roads.

SR-485

2 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the impacts on tribal fish and wildlife management programs in the Pacific Northwest.

SR-485

JUNE 11

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Grim, of Oklahoma, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

SR-485

JUNE 18

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine Native American sacred places.

SR-485

CANCELLATIONS

MAY 15

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To continue hearings to examine an original bill to authorize foreign assistance for fiscal year 2004, to make technical and administrative changes to the Foreign Assistance and Arms Export Control Acts and to authorize a Millennium Challenge Account.

SD-419